



Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington

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AMBASSADOR CELEBRATES EXHIBITION INITIATIVE

The U.S. Ambassador Bill McCormick today congratulated the New Zealand Historic Places Trust on the opening of “*A Friend in Need*” — an exhibition at Old St. Paul’s.

The exhibition explores the social and personal impact U.S. Marines and sailors and soldiers had on the New Zealand public during their time in New Zealand 1942 - 1945.

“This exhibition interviews people whose lives were personally touched by that interaction,” said Ambassador McCormick.

In particular it explores the personal recollections of New Zealanders who fell in love or befriended young Americans, many of whom died in the tragic battles in the Pacific including Tarawa and Guadalcanal.

“New Zealand was the last place where these boys had a family meal and a place of peace,” said the Ambassador. “The kindness shown by New Zealanders has not been forgotten.”

Old St Paul's was one of the churches American service personnel went to on Sundays and they were befriended by New Zealand families who worshipped there. A United States and a U.S. Marine flag hangs in Old St Paul's in memory of the Marines' time in New Zealand.

“The exhibition chronicles part of our countries' shared history, and the contribution the Embassy made to this exhibition is a way that we can continue to express U.S. appreciation. It mattered to those boys then, it mattered to the loved ones they left behind, and it still matters to us now.”